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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7937.0002-07

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

John KEANE et al.

Application No.: 09/832,346

Filed: April 11, 2001

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR
ENABLING COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN A PROCESSOR AND
A NETWORK OPERATIONS
CENTER

Group Art Unit: 2152

Examiner: Unknown

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JAN 10 2002

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in a prior application, application no. 09/814,178, filing date March 22, 2001, upon which applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

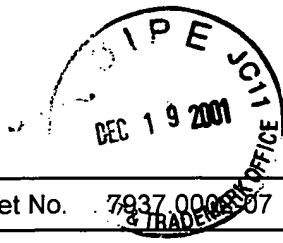
Dated: December 19, 2001

By: 

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB No. 0651-0011

Atty. Docket No. 7937 0000 007	Serial No. 09/832,346	RECEIVED JAN 10 2002 Technology Center 2100
Applicant John KEANE et al.		
Filing Date April 11, 2001	Group: 2152	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
	RFC-2401, S. Kent et al., "Security Architecture for The Internet Protocol," The Internet Society (1998)					
	RFC-2409, Harkins et al., "The Internet Key Exchange," The Internet Society (1998)					
	RFC-1828, Metzger et al., "IP Authentication Using Keyed MD5," The Internet Society (1995)					
	RFC-793, "Transmission Control Protocol," Information Sciences Institute for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) (1981)					
	RFC-791, "Internet Protocol," Information Sciences Institute for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) (1981)					
	Hurwitz Group, "How Small and Midsize Businesses Can Turn the Internet into a Private Network for Competitive Advantage," June 2000, downloaded from http://www.openreach.com on January 4, 2001.					
	Applied Technologies Group, "A Practical Guide to the Right VPN Solution," 2000, downloaded from http://www.openreach.com on January 23, 2001.					
	OpenReach, "Demystifying VPN: An Introduction to VPN Technology," 2000, downloaded from http://www.openreach.com on January 4, 2001.					
	OpenReach, "Private Connections / Open Networks," presented on February 20, 2001.					
	OpenReach, "Transforming the Internet into My Private Backbone for Business: Demystifying VPNs," presented on November 7, 2000.					
	NetworkMagazine.com, "Special Report: VPN Overlay Networks: An Answer to Networks-Based IP VPNs?," June 5, 2001, downloaded from http://www.networkmagazine.com on November 5, 2001.					
Examiner		Date Considered				
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						
Form PTO 1449		Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce				